

Dear Karyn,

Thank you for your email and for giving us the opportunity to bring some clarity.

Never in the history of Russia-South Africa relationship were any type of binding documents on nuclear new build programme signed. There were no deals, no contracts, no nothing. Instead, several cooperation papers were signed: an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and two Memorandums of Understandings (MOU's).

The IGA on "Strategic Partnership and Cooperation in the Fields of Nuclear Power and Industry" was signed in September 2014. It was intended for laying the foundation for a strategic partnership, which would focus on the development of a comprehensive nuclear new-build programme. Again, the IGA is not a contract nor does it guarantee a contract. The IGA merely refers to what Russia was willing to provide if chosen as the preferred vendor at that time. South Africa signed similar intergovernmental agreements with China and France, which expressed interest in assisting South Africa with its nuclear ambitions.

In 2015, two Memorandums of Understandings (MOU's) were signed as well: one on cooperation in training personnel for the South African nuclear power industry followed by a memorandum on cooperation in enhancement of public awareness of nuclear energy in South Africa.

The MOU's were aimed to further expand and deepen the mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical cooperation between our countries in the field of nuclear energy and industry for peaceful uses, based on the principles of equality, non-interference in internal affairs and with the utmost respect of the sovereignty of both states.

The abovementioned documents in no shape or form constitute a "nuclear deal." The IGA is not an Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract. As mentioned above, it does not limit a country from signing similar agreements with other countries, nor does it prevent an open and transparent procurement procedure from taking place. Rosatom has a number of IGA's signed globally and we can assure you that these do not ensure we will be the chosen vendor in these countries.

Moreover, these documents were all signed in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Key Milestones Approach, which is a comprehensive guide for the establishment of nuclear power programmes.